

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) An information recording medium which includes a user
2 data area and a medium management information area and which allows update of information,
3 comprising:

4 an alternative area for ~~the area including a defective area~~ on said information
5 recording medium detected when information is recorded or reproduced; and

6 a management area for management of correspondence between said area
7 ~~including defective area~~ and said alternative area; and

8 ~~wherein the information recorded on said information recording medium~~
9 ~~indicative of an~~ for identifying the allowable number of times of recording of information is
10 ~~previously recorded on the recording medium.~~

2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Currently amended): An information recording control method for
2 conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium
3 having a user data area, an alternative area ~~for the defective area~~, and a medium management
4 information area to ~~execute the store~~ update of information, wherein information ~~for identifying~~
5 ~~said representative of an~~ allowable number of times of recording of information is previously
6 recorded to said information recording medium, said method comprising: if a defect on said
7 information recording medium is detected during recording or reproduction of information, then
8 selectively recording information indicating ~~the a location in said~~ alternative area ~~to said area~~
9 ~~including the that is used in place of said defect is recorded to said medium management~~
10 information area, and ~~when wherein~~ said step of selectively recording is performed if a number
11 of the recordings to at least said medium management information area made to said information
12 recording medium does not exceed the said allowable number of times of recording based on

13 ~~said information for identifying the allowable number of times of recording, the recording is~~
14 ~~controlled.~~

1 4. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 3, wherein ~~the~~ an information update count is recorded to said medium management
3 information area and ~~the wherein said update of information is selectively stored~~ to said medium
4 management information area ~~is controlled by comparing based on a comparison of~~ said update
5 count and said allowable number of times of recording.

1 5. (Original): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 4,
2 wherein the recording to said medium management information area is continued when said
3 medium management information area is recorded in multiple on the two or more areas and
4 recording is completed normally to the two or more predetermined number of areas among said
5 multiple recording areas.

1 6. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 4, wherein if said allowable number of times of recording is set, then allowing updates of
3 recording times to said medium management information area ~~said update count is compared~~
4 ~~with said allowable number of times of recording when said allowable number of times of~~
5 ~~recording is set, when said update count is under~~ less than said allowable number of times of
6 recording, ~~update and not allowing said updates~~ of recording times to said medium management
7 information area ~~is allowed, and when said update count is greater than or equal to said~~
8 allowable number of times of recording ~~or larger, update of recording times to said medium~~
9 ~~management information area is not allowed for the erroneous completion of process, and~~
10 wherein if said allowable number of times of recording is not yet set, then allowing said updates
11 of recording times to said medium management information area is also allowed.

7. (Canceled)

1 8. (Currently amended): An information recording control method for
2 conducting recording and reproduction of information to an information recording medium
3 which allows update of information, comprising the steps of:

4 recording information indicating an alternative area ~~for the~~ associated with a
5 defective area including a defect to the ~~a~~ medium management information area in information
6 recording medium when said defective ~~on said information recording medium~~ is detected at the
7 ~~time of~~ during said recording or reproducing information, and

8 controlling ~~the said~~ recording and reproduction of information depending on the
9 number of times ~~of recording of said~~ information ~~indicating said alternative area~~ is recorded to
10 said medium management information area.

1 9. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed in
2 claim 8, wherein the allowable number of times of information is previously recorded to said
3 information recording medium, ~~and said method includes~~ further comprising a step for
4 controlling the recording and reproduction of information by comparing said allowable number
5 of times of recording to ~~the said~~ number of times ~~of recording~~ an alternative area is recorded to
6 said medium management information area.

1 10. (Original): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 9,
2 wherein the information indicating the alternative area is recorded to said medium management
3 information area in multiple to a plurality of areas, and said method also includes the step for
4 continuing the recording and reproduction of information when the recorded information is read
5 out normally from two or more predetermined number of areas among a plurality of said medium
6 management information areas.

1 11. (Currently amended): An information recording control method as claimed
2 in claim 10, wherein ~~the said~~ recording and reproduction of information ~~are continued~~ is
3 permitted when ~~the a~~ number of normal areas in said medium management information area is
4 the greater than or equal to a predetermined number, or larger even if the said number of times of

5 ~~recording an alternative area is recorded~~ to said medium management information area is equal
6 to or greater than said allowable number of times of recording ~~or larger~~.

12. (Canceled)

1 13. (New): An information recording medium having a user data area, an
2 alternative area for detected defects, a medium management information area to store update
3 information, wherein information representing an allowable number of times of recording of
4 information is pre-recorded on said information recording medium.

1 14. (New): An information recording medium having a user data area, an
2 alternative area for detected defects, and a medium management information area to store update
3 information, wherein an update count of recordings made to said medium management
4 information area is recorded in said medium management information area, wherein information
5 representative of an allowable number of times of recording of information is previously
6 recorded on said information recording medium.

1 15. (New): An information recording control method for conducting recording
2 and reproduction of information to an information recording medium, said information recording
3 medium having a user data area, an alternative area for the defective area, and a medium
4 management information area to store update information, wherein an update count
5 representative of a number of recordings made to said medium management information area is
6 recorded inn said medium management information area, and wherein information representative
7 of an allowable number of times of recording of information is previously recorded on said
8 information recording medium, and wherein recording operations are prevented when said
9 update count exceeds said allowable number of times of recording of information.

1 16. (New): An information recording control method as claimed in claim 15,
2 wherein recording to said medium management information area is permitted when said medium
3 management information area is recorded in two or more areas of said information recording
4 medium and a recording operation to said two or more areas is successfully performed.